

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 01148 161627Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-20 EB-08 COME-00 AID-05 DOTE-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /112 W

-----114120 180522Z /23

R 161130Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1018

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDAH

AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 1148

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PEPR, GB, SA

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BONGO'S TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA: ACCORDS SIGNED

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE 934 (NOTAL) B) JIDDA 3168

1. SUMMARY: LIBREVILLE'S "L'UNION" OF MAY 12 GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO PRESIDENT BONGO'S TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA APRIL 23-26, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNATURE OF TWO AGREEMENTS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE FROM SAUDI DEVELOPMENT FUND. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT BONGO MADE HIS SECOND TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA APRIL 23-26 AT INVITATION OF KING KHALED. FIRST VISIT TOOK PLACE IN 1974 WHEN BONGO CONVERTED TO ISLAM, AND GABONESE-SAUDI RELATIONS ESTABLISHED. HIGHLIGHT OF RECENT TRIP WAS SIGNATURE OF TWO AGREEMENTS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION. ACCORDING "L'UNION", FIRST ACCORD WILL PROVIDE FOR US DOLS 20 MILLION (5 BILLION CFA) FOR TRANSGABON RAILROAD (REFTEL B) TO BE USED FOR SIGNAL SYSTEM ON OWENDO-BOOUE LINK, WITH LIKELIHOOD OF FURTHER FINANCING FOR RAILROAD. SECOND AGREEMENT ALLOWS FOR US DOLS 30 MILLION (OR 7 BILLION UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 LIBREV 01148 161627Z

CFA) FOR INSTITUT POLYTECHNIQUE AT FRANCEVILLE, BUT SPECIFICS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE.

3. COMMISSIONER OF PLAN LEMBOUMBA, WHO ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT BONGO, ALSO DISCUSSED POSSIBLE COOPERATION WITH SAUDIS IN PALM OIL PLANTATION AT LAMBARENE, BROADCASTING STATION AT MOABI FOR ARABIC-LANGUAGE PRO-

GRAMMING, AND PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS. SAUDIS MAY ALSO PARTICIPATE IN PRIVATE SECTOR PROJECTS, SUCH AS LIBREVILLE FISHING PORT AND CONSTRUCTION IN PORT GENTIL PRIOR TO 1979 INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVITIES, LATTER IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY OF PHILIPPINES (CDCP).

4. VISIT, ACCORDING TO PRESS ARTICLE, MARKS BEGINNING OF CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN GABON AND SAUDI ARABIA AND MAY BE FOLLOWED SHORTLY BY NAMING OF SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO GABON.TIENKEN

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## Message Attributes

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